

House-Senate negotiators to include the amendment in their conference report. The House Armed Services Committee, however, was concerned that the amendment was beyond the scope of their jurisdiction and the provision was stripped out in conference.

I turned then to the Intelligence Authorization Act and again worked with Senator ROBERTS and Senator ROCKEFELLER to prepare the amendment anew for inclusion in that legislation. The amendment was identical to the provision passed previously in the Senate and endorsed by the House and was cleared by Senator ROBERTS for passage by unanimous consent. But someone objected to the unanimous consent request to pass this vital bill by voice vote. Since that time, the legislation has lingered because someone doesn't want a vote on this amendment or the amendments offered by my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY.

I know my friend from Alabama voted against my amendment when it was on the floor in November. I am sure he would vote against it again. We can agree to disagree on this issue, but his assertion that I have placed a hold on the intelligence bill is simply not true.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, earlier today, the Senator from Alabama, Senator SESSIONS said that Senator KERRY and I objected to Senate consideration of the intelligence authorization bill because we wish to offer amendments.

In fact, neither Senator KERRY nor I have objected to this bill and no other Democrat has objected to considering it. The bill is cleared on the Democratic side. That means an unidentified Republican Senator or Senators have placed a hold on the bill and are preventing the Senate from considering it.

I do have two amendments to the bill. My first amendment would require the administration provide to the Intelligence Committee with the presidential daily briefs from Iraq from 1997 to the first day of the Iraq war as part of the committee's investigation on the use of prewar intelligence. I would certainly be willing to support a time agreement allowing reasonable debate and a vote on the amendment.

My second amendment would guarantee that detainees held by the intelligence community would be treated humanely, and that treatment would be verified independently.

Apparently, to prevent debate on this very important issue, a Republican Senator is willing to let the whole intelligence bill fail. That's an outrage.

It's important for the Senate to approve the intelligence authorization bill, and it's important for the Senate to get to the bottom of the abuse of intelligence the administration used to justify war.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am honored to address the Senate in celebration of the 185th anniversary of

Greek independence. On March 25, 1821, the Greeks revolted against nearly 400 years of repressive rule by the Ottoman Empire and began their journey toward independence.

And in honor of that historic day, the United States and Greece stand together in our commitment to the principles of democracy, freedom, and independence.

In honor of that day, we celebrate the achievements and contributions of the Greek state and her people. We honor Greece's accomplishments in history, science, philosophy, mathematics, literature, and art.

In honor of that day, we recognize and celebrate our own democratic heritage in this Nation. The Greeks believed in self-governance, and our Founding Fathers incorporated the ancient Greeks' political experience and philosophy when they formed our representative democracy. Greek ideas of government and freedom have had an immense and unparalleled influence in the world and in this Nation. And I would like to thank the Greek people for leading the way and giving us the inspiration to pursue these ideals.

In honor of that day, we celebrate the contributions of the more than 1 million Greek-Americans in this country. In New Jersey alone, there are over 61,000 Greek-Americans who contribute daily to the economic, political, and cultural fabric of this Nation.

Over the years, not only has Greece supported the United States in every major international conflict in the last century, but it has stood by this country after the September 11 terrorist attacks. And Greece generously supported us with aid after the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina here on our soil.

And we should stand with Greece and protect the human and religious rights of the Ecumenical Patriarch. This is an issue that not only affects the Greek community but is important to all communities. We must protect the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as Turkey has: refused to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate's international status and its significance to Orthodox Christians around the world, impeded training for the clergy while requiring that all candidates for the Holy Synod be Turkish nationals; confiscated 75 percent of the Ecumenical Patriarchal properties, and levied a 42 percent retroactive tax on the Balukli Hospital which is run by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Last year, as Member of the House, I authored a resolution calling on Turkey to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to respect the human and religious rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. And that language sent a strong message to Turkey when it was included in the State Department authorization bill which passed the House last year.

Now, as a U.S. Senator, I will remain firm in my position and will continue

to work hard to make sure Turkey ends its discrimination and persecution against the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

As Aeschines, one of ancient Greece's more gifted orators once said, "In a democracy, it is the laws that guard the person of the citizen and the constitution of the state, whereas the despot and the oligarch find their protection in suspicion and in armed guards."

From the history of democracy to the religious freedom and human rights of the Ecumenical patriarchate, we in this Nation share this common vision with Greece and her people.

And the United States of America stands proudly with Greece in honor of our shared commitment to democracy, freedom, and independence.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM MYERS TO 9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to note that it has now been more than one full year that the nomination of William Myers to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has been pending on the Senate Calendar. On March 17, 2005, the Judiciary Committee approved the Myers nomination by a vote of 10-8. Unfortunately, this was not the first time Mr. Myers has been approved by the Judiciary Committee. We are also approaching the two-year anniversary when Bill Myers was approved by the Judiciary Committee in the 108th Congress on April 1, 2004.

Last year, with the so-called "Gang of 14" agreement, many pending nominees finally received their long-overdue up or down votes on the Senate floor. Unfortunately, Bill Myers was not one of those nominees, despite the fact that he has the support of a bipartisan majority of this Senate. On July 20, 2004, Bill Myers received 53 votes to end the filibuster on his nomination. The time has come to give Bill Myers his long-overdue up or down vote on the Senate floor. His nomination has been pending on the Senate calendar for a full year now and I urge the Senate leadership to bring this nomination up for a vote.

Bill Myers is a highly respected attorney who was approved unanimously by this Senate in 2001 to serve as Solicitor of the Department of Interior. Former Democratic Governor of Idaho Cecil Andrus, who also served as Interior Secretary in the Carter administration, says that Bill Myers possesses "the necessary personal integrity, judicial temperament and legal experience" as well as "the ability to act fairly on matters of law that will come before him on the court." As a nominee to fill an Idaho seat on the 9th Circuit, Bill Myers has the full support of the entire Idaho congressional delegation.

Bill Myers is a qualified nominee and there is no justification for continuing to filibuster or delay his nomination. My fellow Idahoans and all residents in the 9th Circuit deserve to have their appeals heard in a timely manner. To do this, we must fill all vacancies on

the court in a timely manner. I join with my colleague from Idaho, Senator CRAIG, in urging this Senate to hold an up or down vote on the nomination of William Myers to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, just before we recessed 2 weeks ago, many celebrated the Irish national holiday commemorating the Patron Saint Patrick. That day also marked an important anniversary for another man: William G. Myers. Mr. Myers' nomination was confirmed by the Senate Judiciary committee exactly one year ago on that day, and he has since been waiting for confirmation by the Senate.

My colleagues know that this is the second time Mr. Myers will be considered by the Senate for a seat on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. It is important to note that in the previous Congress a majority of the Senate voted to confirm him. Due to the circumstances of that time, however, his confirmation required a supermajority. I am confident that the current Congress will see the fine qualities of Mr. Myers, and he will receive a full bipartisan vote for confirmation.

Mr. Myers will be an advocate of truth and justice. He was confirmed in the past as Solicitor for the Department of the Interior and is a very talented and capable candidate. His tremendous background demonstrates that he will provide clear and precise judgment and leadership to the Western States in the Ninth Circuit. Mr. Myers has proven throughout his professional career that he understands the culture and heritage of the Western States and the issues critical to that region. His professional history demonstrates that he will show responsibility and intellect in every decision that he makes as a judge.

I strongly support William Myers' nomination to the Ninth Circuit Court. He deserves our fair consideration for this position, and it is my hope that he will be given an up-or-down vote in the Senate. The President has correctly selected this highly qualified nominee, and I ask that the Senate move quickly to confirm him.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BEALL

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay my respects to a true Marylander who passed away last week, Senator J. Glenn Beall, Jr. He will be remembered for devoting his life to public service as a naval officer, a State delegate, a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and a U.S. Senator.

Senator Beall was born in Cumberland, MD, to a prominent and extraordinary Maryland family who shared his dedication to improving the lives of all Marylanders. His father, J. Glenn Beall, was a moderate Republican Congressman who served in the U.S. House of Representatives for a decade and the U.S. Senate for 12 years. Senator Beall Jr. grew up following his father's campaigns in Western Maryland and went on to follow in his footsteps.

Senator Beall's long and distinguished career in both the public and private sector has set a high bar for those of us who follow in his footsteps. His example reminds us to eschew capricious fame and the ever-changing political winds and to focus on the substantive issues of the day.

As a freshman Senator in 1986, I sought and received Senator Beall's advice and counsel on how to best serve the people of Maryland, and most particularly, the residents of western Maryland. His advice was specific, immediate, and realizable. It added greatly to my own efforts to succeed. I will miss his counsel and the true collegial spirit that governed our interaction.

Senator Beall had a lot of Senate know-how. His political priorities focused on health, preservation, and transportation. He was known for going across party lines in an effort to work on a bipartisan basis. It was a pleasure to work with him.

Most recently, Senator Beall was the founding chairman of the Canal Place Preservation & Development Authority, which was the direct result of his tireless efforts to establish the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park in the early 1970s. Together, I worked with Senator Beall to create economic development opportunities throughout western Maryland. His constituents throughout the State, and especially in the region, are indebted to him for the creative manner in which he led the preservation, rehabilitation, development, and management of the Canal Place Preservation District.

Throughout his life and long-lived political career, Senator Beall strived to serve the needs of Marylanders in the State legislature, in the U.S. Congress, and at the Canal Place Preservation & Development Authority. I join my constituents in mourning the loss of a remarkable gentleman who had Maryland in his heart, and bid farewell to an old friend.

GRATITUDE FOR INTEGRITY, EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONALISM

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, at the end of March, I will be losing a valuable member of my legislative team as she returns to her host agency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Since early 2005, Larisa Collado has served as a legislative fellow in my Washington, DC, office. Her extensive expertise on technical financial intricacies, coupled with her diligence, enthusiasm and professionalism has made her an invaluable, albeit temporary, member of my staff.

As chairman of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on International Trade and Finance and the designated Senate lead for regulatory relief matters, I am actively engaged in a wide portfolio of financial issues. During her service, Larisa has been critical to advancing my legislative agenda by meeting with stakeholders and analyzing and recommending legislative initiatives. She has effectively utilized her firsthand experiences as a regulator when work-

ing on a number of controversial issues. Without her able assistance, my efforts to promote financial services regulatory restructuring would have been seriously undermined. Larisa has demonstrated time and again the willingness to revisit detailed regulatory provisions without losing patience or drive. When others would have turned to other projects, she stayed committed to this long-overdue but sorely overlooked facet of the financial services sector.

Larisa has also demonstrated keen perceptivity and integrity with regard to the proper balance of personal privacy protection and legitimate law enforcement—a necessary component of congressional oversight and reform of our Nation's financial markets. Idahoans and Americans across the country are becoming increasingly aware of the vulnerability of their personal financial information. I looked to her for guidance and analysis of the proper ways to ensure that financial information remains private. At the same time, Larisa has also been a key component of my efforts to work with Idaho Hispanics to educate those who need help with financial literacy and understanding the benefits of the financial services community.

Larisa has proven herself a highly effective professional and I have no doubt she will continue to excel at the FDIC in a career already marked by superior performance and achievement. I thank her for her commitment to public service and to Idaho these past months, and wish her well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

A FRIEND TO IDAHO WHEAT

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, the National Association of Wheat Growers announced their annual awards in February, and I am proud to report that a member of my staff was one of only five Senate staff members recognized for "superior action in support of the goals and policies of the wheat industry."

Staci Lancaster serves as my senior policy advisor with responsibilities in agriculture, forestry, trade and immigration issues, and as my staff director of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization. Staci provides me with meticulous and well-researched information, not only on the wheat industry, but in all legislative areas for which she bears responsibility.

I have great respect for her intelligence and analytical abilities and trust her guidance and direction on these issues which are so critical to Idaho. She is a tremendous asset to me and my staff and I congratulate her on this esteemed award. •